

Reviews

Karan Chavis
Karan Chavis, vocals; D.A. McDowell, keyboards.
Frank's Bar and Grill,
Saturday, Nov. 19
★★★½

Karan Chavis, a local jazz vocalist, possesses one of the finest voices around. Her performance at Frank's Bar and Grill spotlighted her hypnotic vocals.

Chavis' song list includes Broadway favorites, old jazz standards and even a few pop songs, including a version of the Beatles' "Yesterday" (which seems to be a favorite of jazz singers who do covers).

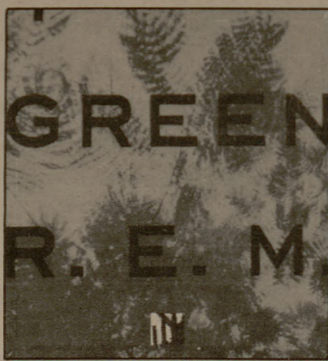
D.A. McDowell, who performs with his cabaret-oriented group, Texas Party, played keyboards at Saturday night's show and his trusty percussion machine, "Ringo," provided the beat. McDowell showed a fine jazz piano talents, performing a solo instrumental number during the evening's performance.

The spotlight for the show, however, was on Chavis, who was spectacular. Seated upon a stool in front of McDowell's

keyboard, she sang each song with an emotion that seemed to reach out to all corners of the restaurant/club. Chavis best demonstrated her vocal range on her version of the popular Frank Sinatra hit, "The Lady is a Tramp." Here, her voice soared in tone at the song's conclusion, never once breaking.

As for her rendition of "As Time Goes By" (from the film *Casablanca*), Chavis' version is one even Bogart's Rick Blaine would have loved. Other highlights of the show included "Paper Moon," "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?" and the classic "Georgia." Chavis also sang a beautiful version of "Sentimental Journey." In fact, with her repertoire of songs from years past, a Karan Chavis performance is itself a sentimental journey of sorts.

Chavis will surely be performing frequently in the local area, and her show is highly recommended to those who want to see one of the best singers in town.
Review by Shane Hall



"Green"
R.E.M.
Warner Brothers Records
★★★½

With *Green*, R.E.M.'s newest album, the band does nothing particularly new, but sticks to what has worked in the past, resulting in a fine album.

During the past few years, the Athens, Ga. quartet's sound has evolved from jangly new wave folk to a hard-edged rock sound. This change began with the group's 1985 album, *Fables of the Reconstruction* and developed further on *Life's Rich Pageant* and last year's *Document*.

Green continues that direction, although occasionally the band dips into its folk-rock past. Guitarist Peter Buck strums acoustic guitar and mandolin on three tracks, "You Are the Everything," "The Wrong Child" and "Hairshirt," all acoustic songs where Buck's accompaniment is the backdrop to vocalist Michael Stipe's musings.

Another change in R.E.M.'s sound during the past three years is the development of Stipe's vocals. On the band's earliest recordings, it was virtually impossible to decipher what he was saying. Here, his vocals are at their clearest. You can make out every word, but the meaning behind the lyrics is still open to debate.

The lyrics to one song, "World Leader Pretend," are printed on the inner sleeve of the record. "I raised the wall and I will be the one to knock it down,"

Stipe sings, in what seems to allude to withdrawal and a feeling of isolation. "World Leader Pretend" is one of the album's best tracks.

Other great songs on *Green* include "Pop Song 89" and the record's first single, "Orange Crush." Both are good examples of the band's current guitar-heavy rock sound and sound like they could have been included on *Document*.

However, this album also includes "Turn Your Inside Out," a track with slow, plodding guitar riffs. With "Turn Your Inside Out," R.E.M. have done their first truly dreadful song.

With the exception of this song, however, *Green* is a respectable effort, although certainly not their best. It is better than *Fables* but does not touch *Reckoning*, the band's best album to date. But *Green* is sure to continue the success R.E.M. has found in recent years.
Review by Shane Hall

Rating Key

- ★★★★ — A classic. Not to be missed.
- ★★★★ — Excellent.
- ★★★ — Some flaws, but good overall.
- ★★ — Fair.
- ★ — El stinko.



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"Crossing Delancey"
Starring Amy Irving
Directed by Joan Micklin
Silver
Rated PG
★★★½

"Crossing Delancey," a light, romantic comedy that is a pleasant and enjoyable movie-going experience, provides both laughs and serious moments.

Amy Irving plays Isabella (Izzy) Goldman, a New York bookstore clerk. Izzy is 33, single and content to be so. Her grandmother, Bubbie, however, fails to understand how anyone can be happy unmarried. So she enlists the help of a matchmaker to find some eligible men for Izzy to meet. The meddling twosome set up a meeting between Izzy and Sam

Posner (Peter Riegert), who owns a Kosher pickle store.

Izzy, however, is more interested in Anton Maes, a Dutch writer she met at a bookstore function to promote his new novel.

The interesting part of "Crossing Delancey" is the conflict between old and new values. Amy Irving shines as Izzy, a woman who is trying to break away from the "old" ways and live as a modern woman. She lives in uptown Manhattan and moves within the city's literary circles to escape the Lower East Side neighborhood she grew up in. Izzy's modern lifestyle contrasts with the traditional Jewish life Bubbie lives. Sam's entrance into Izzy's life, however, begins to confuse things for her.

Peter Riegert manages to give interest to the simple fellow Sam is, turning in a fine performance. Reizi Bozyk is charming and hilarious as Bubbie, the grandmother who wants her granddaughter to find a husband.

Joan Micklin Silver directs the film from a script by Susan Sandler and creating a story full of believable characters in real situations. "Crossing Delancey," a delightfully entertaining movie, can be thought of as 1988's equivalent of "Moonstruck." Perhaps this film will earn some Oscar nominations just as "Moonstruck" did.
Review by Shane Hall